

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of June 11, 2007.

Claims 1-14, 16, 17 are pending in the application. Claims 9, 11, 16 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 11-13, 17 have been amended. Claims 4, 7 have been canceled. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Worley et al., of record.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12, 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Offriniga et al., of record.

It is noted with appreciation that claim 8 is indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, applicant wishes to defer rewriting of this dependent claim in independent form in view of the arguments presented below regarding amended claims 1 and 13.

In order to clearly distinguish the present invention from the applied prior art, applicant has amended claims 1 and 13 by setting forth the material of the first carrier, as previously recited in claim 4, and the positional relationship of the first carrier between the air gap and the permanent magnets. Support for the latter claim limitation can be found in paragraphs [0008] and [0028] of the instant specification. More specifically, claims 1 and 13 now set forth the positioning of a **non-conducting** first carrier of **non-magnetic** material between the air gap and the permanent magnets.

Claims 3, 5, 8-9, 11-12, 17 have been amended to make them consistent with the amendments to claims 1 and 13, respectively.

Worley et al. describe a line start permanent magnet motor having a rotor with a plurality of permanent magnets (30, 32) which are surrounded by a thin

hollow cylinder (36) made of a **good electrical conductor** to thereby hold the magnets against the body (18) (cf. paragraph [0021]). Fig. 1 clearly shows that the hollow cylinder (36) is positioned adjacent the air gap between the stator and the rotor. Thus, Worley et al. fail to disclose the provision of a non-conducting first carrier of non-magnetic material adjacent the air gap.

Offringa et al. disclose a permanent magnet rotor having magnets which are embraced by a screen (18) of electrically highly conducting material which in turn is surrounded by a sleeve (20) which is made of fiber reinforced polymer material. Thus, the non-magnetic sleeve (20) is positioned between the highly conducting screen (18) and the air gap formed between the rotor and surrounding stator. In contrast thereto, the non-magnetic carrier according to the present invention is placed between the air gap and the permanent magnets, as is now set forth in claims 1 and 13.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that neither Worley nor Offringa, nor a combination thereof teaches or suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 13.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claims 1 and 13, share their presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant

would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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